

VICTIMS' VOICES

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REFLECTIONS ON THE RALLY

The CVSA organized rally against 'no justice' on Parliament house steps attracted a notable collection of speakers even though certain invited guests, relevant members of the government, preferred the less challenging 'Harmony' rally to attend, which was on at the same time. Certain members of the opposition were good enough to attend, including leader Ted Baillieu, while shadow attorney general Robert Clarke spoke a few words berating actions (cont. P3)

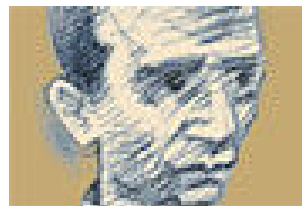
WHERE'S THE DETERRENCE WHEN IT'S A REVOLVING DOOR SYSTEM?

Two recent cases have highlighted community concern about criminal sentencing in Victoria. **Fury at Killers Sentence**
A 10-year jail term given to the ringleader of a gang who kicked a man to death for fun has sparked a wave of public anger.

John Caratozzolo and six others bashed and kicked a 41-year-old academic, Dr Zhongjun Cao, in a Footscray street as he walked home from Victoria University in January last year. Caratozzolo was jailed for 15 years with a minimum of 10. Only five of the 129 murderers jailed in the past five years have received a lighter minimum sentence.

Victims' groups said they were disgusted by the sentence and more than 300 people felt moved to comment on herald-

sun.com.au. Dr Cao's widow, Jingfang Zhou, said her family had been destroyed and she had lost the light of her life, a man she had fallen in love with at first sight. "How much does my husband's life deserve?" The gang of youths planned to go "curry



Caratozzolo courtroom sketch
"a laughing assassin"

bashing" and rob an Indian student for a mobile phone. Instead they came across Dr Cao, a gentle and beloved father who stood no chance against seven young men. He was not even asked for his phone before the beat-

ing began. One of the thugs picked him up and dropped him on his head. As Dr Cao lay dying, Caratozzolo laughed and delivered a vicious kick to his victim's head as a parting gesture.

The gang then moved on to its next target, Bhinesh Mosaheb. He was bashed and robbed and now suffers from a twisted spinal cord.

"good prospects of rehabilitation"?

In sentencing Justice Harper said he took into account Caratozzolo's age, his immaturity, his guilty plea and his good prospects of rehabilitation. Herald Sun July 30th

Thug with Record Gets only Eight Months

A thug who has served time for manslaughter was jailed for (contin. P2)

TOP COP CONCEDES CCTV NO DETERRENT TO THUGS

Premier John Brumby and Police Chief Commissioner Simon Overland have made an impassioned plea to Melbournians to help change community attitudes about violent behaviour.

Acknowledging a rise in street violence over the past 12 to 18 months, Mr

Brumby said he was "appalled, sickened and disgusted" by two examples this week of "senseless cowardice and violence" that have left one young man dead and another with serious head injuries.

Earlier today, another of Victoria's top cops con-

ceded that security cameras are not deterring thugs. D.C.C. Walshe said assailants were ignoring the closed circuit TV cameras that had proliferated around the city.

A crime victims group has added its voice to the debate, claiming the

State Government's "softly, softly approach" is to blame for increasing violence on Melbourne's streets.

Noel McNamara, president of the CVSA, said it was sickening to hear reports every day of violent assaults and murders. (contin. P2)

WHERE'S THE DETERRENCE (CONT.)

eight months today over a brutal attack at a Hawthorn nightclub. Ryan Leigh Johns, 26, kicked victim Andrew Colbeck several times on the dancefloor on January 24 this year. A co-offender threw Mr Colbeck to the floor where the pair kicked him to the head, causing him to lose consciousness. The victim was concussed for three days and suffered bruising and abrasions.



Ryan Leigh Johns

About a month later, Johns ran into a friend of Mr Colbeck at a music festival, threatening: "If Andrew went to the [police], he would get f---d up".

At the Melbourne Magistrates' Court today, Magistrate Duncan Reynolds jailed Johns for eight months.

The case bears a striking similarity to Johns' fatal attack on a teenager at the Village Green Hotel in Glen Waverley in 2002. Johns was jailed for

six years with a minimum of three-and-a-half years for killing 18-year-old Aaron Linskens with a martial arts kick in the hotel car park. Johns pleaded guilty to manslaughter over Linskens' death and served three-and-a-half years in prison before being released on parole in November 2005.

Today, Johns pleaded guilty to one count of intentionally causing injury and one of harassing a witness.

COMMENT

Caratozzolo

Judge Harper, justice must not only be seen to be done, but should be done. This is outrageous and a disgrace.

Today the sentencing of the last of the so called 'Curry Bashers', a young thug who was 16 years old at the time of the offences, but still took part in the murder of Dr Cao in what could only be described as a very brutal attack on a man simply walking home from his workplace.

We cannot name this thug as the law states those under the age of 18 are still juveniles. You're old enough to murder in Victoria but still protected from the greatest shame of all: of being named as a murderer. Furthermore you leave the Juvenile Justice Centre a clean skin, and while we're on that, he was sentenced to six years mini-

mum; with time already served he will be out in a little over four years. I have to say this goes up in my estimation as one of the many travesties of justice.

Now Judge Harper came out full of fire and brimstone about the criticism of his 10 years minimum sentence handed down to adult thug Caratozzolo. The Herald Sun editorial was criticized even the Director of Public Prosecutions got a spray from the

judge for telling the Herald Sun he may take it to the Appeal Court. Another of Judge Harper's excuses was the advice from the prosecutor in the case about sentencing; I am surprised he did not blame the Tip Staff as well.

Unfortunately it was every one's fault but Judge Harper's. My advice Judge Harper: become a defense barrister, I believe you're more suited to that position.

Ryan Johns

I have to say this came as no surprise to me having seen him, aided by lawyer Paul Galbally, plea bargain from murder to manslaughter in a case where he was gone as a brutal murderer due to the witnesses for the prosecution, however unbeknown to any of us, on the fourth morning of the trial we were told this scum bag had plead guilty to manslaughter. Now having a bit of knowledge of scum bag's past history not long before the he murdered Aaron Linskens he kicked a man in the head at Hallam, and what does this idiot magistrate Reynolds do when sentencing Johns: give him eight months. This dirt bag will undoubtedly kill again.



-CCTV continued.-

"The streets are full of drug traffickers and users and they know they'll not be seriously punished if caught because we've got a soft government and a soft police command and they're con-

spiring with each other," Mr McNamara said.

"Then you've got the judges who all come from bleeding heart backgrounds."

minimum 1 yr sentence

"There should be zero-

tolerance, with a mandatory minimum sentence of one year for any crimes of violence, what's happening now is absolutely disgraceful, something has to be done," he said.

"They are just out of control, because they know that they will not be punished for what they have done."

The Age, July 16th 2009

(from P.1) of Rob Hulls in addressing the current crime levels in Victoria. Also speaking were both Noel and Bev MacNamara, Philip Lillingston on the still existing double jeopardy laws, and Nicole Plowman who gave an impassioned talk on her unfortunate experiences through the criminal justice system in witnessing the prosecution and ineffectual sentencing of the killer of her brother Christopher John Leone. Even though not needing an opportunity to speak publicly, radio host Derryn Hinch honoured us with his presence. What follows is from his website *Hinch.net* 14th July.

Beware the Drums

I went to a rally in the Melbourne CBD yesterday. Not the colourful Harmony Rally that featured people in national dress and slogans of peace and love and accompanied by African drums and a highland pipe band playing swirling *Waltzing Matilda*. And the Victorian Premier, John Brumby. I went to a much smaller rally. Not much more than 100 people on the cold wind-swept steps of Parliament House.

Brumby was invited. He didn't even respond. A small gathering of people whose personal suffering –and later their abuse by our legal sys-



Shadow Attorney-General Robert Clark speaking

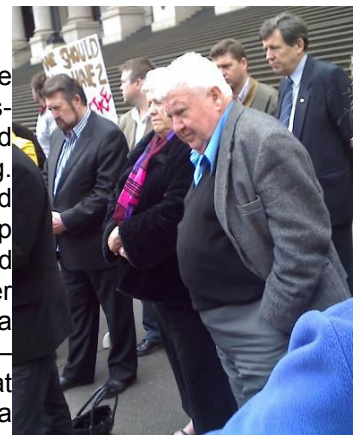
tem – ironically was the trigger for the harmony march after the recent spate of racist bashings. The rally on the steps of Parliament House was organized by the indefatigable Noel McNamara from the Crime Victims Support group. He's been betrayed many times by the politicians who marched in harmony yesterday.

Been betrayed by Bracks and Brumby and Hulls. Had tea and scones with them in the building behind where we stood yesterday while being promised that suspended sentences were a thing of the past. That judges and magistrates would start implementing new, tougher, longer maximum sentences.

That home detention would only be used for minor crimes. That the extended supervision orders would protect the community, protect children. When in fact, they have been exploited by serial rapists and child molesters to keep their identities and photos and addresses secret from a

son or daughter –while the killer still walks the streets awaiting a tactically delayed trial. One asks me when we'll get new magistrates. When will judges start making the punishment fit the crime? And I think of how Rob Hulls, over a decade, has appointed about 60% of all judges and magistrates to the bench. Not many of them resign after bodging up a speeding ticket. Change will take ten

long suffering public. I looked around at those now familiar faces yesterday and wondered how they keep going. How they must dread every morning picking up the newspapers and reading about another molesting priest given a suspended sentence – which is no sentence at all. Another rapist of a little girl getting two years in jail. When the maximum is twenty. A child pornographer walking free. Another killer given bail while the wheels of so-called justice grind so slowly that they will observe two or three or four grieving Christmases in the absence of a dead



"been betrayed by Bracks and Brumby and Hulls"

years. So I say to Premier Brumby and the Attorney-General. We heard the drums yesterday at your Harmony rally. Beware they don't beat for you.



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CITY OF CASEY - VIOLENCE CAPITAL

A few days in the City of Casey, and believe me it could happen in any part of Melbourne the violence capitol of the world, and while all this goes on the politicians and police command "tut tut", and continue to sit on their hands in the Ivory Towers. We have 3000 less police than NSW, magistrates and judges being appointed to the bench by Rob Hulls that are more to left than the Leaning Tower of Pisa who continue to hand out suspended or very lenient sentences for crimes of violence, obviously those that commit crimes of violence think they are to



severe, and when granted bail and with out delay leave the country, bring on the state elections.

*Saturday: A man in his early 20s forced his way into a house party at Redmore Crt, Berwick and assaulted two people at about 1.30am;

*Saturday: A man was smashed in the head with a bottle and then robbed by a man in his 20s at Berwick Railway Station while he waited for a 4.30am train to work in the city. He received several stitches to a nasty laceration above his right eye;

*Saturday: A 24-year-old Hampton Park man was attacked by a group of up

to seven youths armed with baseball bats and stakes at the corner of South Gippsland Highway and Huon Park Rd at about 9.45pm. He was taken to the Alfred Hospital with life-threatening injuries;

*Tuesday: A 38-year-old man attacked a 49-year-old man, hitting him in the head with a hammer at a house on Baxter-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale, at 7pm. He was taken to Casey Hospital with serious injuries;

*Wednesday: An unidentified man in his 20s was found near a factory on Princes Hwy, Hallam, unconscious with internal injuries and a fractured skull. He was taken to Dandenong Hospital with potentially life threatening injuries.

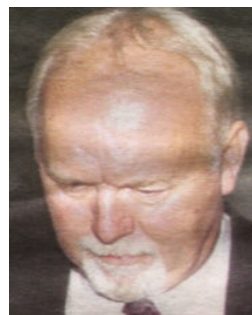
CONVICTED PEDOPHILE BACK AT SCHOOL

Convicted pedophile Gary John Riddle attended a teenage debutante ball at the weekend, outraging parents from Geelong's Christian College. People from the close-knit private school were horrified on Saturday night to see the registered sex offender seated at a table with his brother school principal Daryl and extended family just metres from teenage girls.

Daryl Riddle needs to answer why he allows a convicted pedophile to attend Christian College events," a concerned parent wrote in a letter to the Geelong Advertiser. Victims-of-crime advocate Noel McNamara was quoted as saying "He should not be in the same hall as them. Whoever's invited him should

be dismissed from the school because you couldn't surely have any confidence in them."

"He's known as someone



pedophile Gary John Riddle

who preys on young children. If any of his victims were there they would have been re-victimised by being in his presence."

"actions were predatory" Gary Riddle was charged with 14 counts of indecent assault against nine girls aged eight to 16, between

1971 and 1989, and was sentenced to five years in prison in 2002.

The assaults took place in his role as a primary school teacher, sports coach and church youth group leader. In sentencing, Justice Alex Chernov said his actions were predatory.

Riddle was employed as a garden contractor at Christian College from late 1995 to early 1999 before his position was terminated when rumours of a police investigation surfaced. In 2002, the school said it regretted Gary Riddle's employment. Numerous attempts to contact Daryl Riddle, who is on long-service leave until early October, and school board chairman Chris Golden were unsuccessful.

Geelong Advertiser 4/9/09

DHS UPDATE



Hoping this won't be a regular segment but the Department of Human Services has done it again. According to the Herald Sun (16 Sep), they have been responsible, according to an Ombudsman's report, of placing a child in the care of a convicted sex offender. Ombudsman George Brouwer found staff repeatedly failed to conduct criminal checks on prospective carers of vulnerable children. As a result, the department placed a child with a convicted sex offender, despite the child's disclosures of abuse against the offender in the past. "Even though the child's mother brought this to the attention of DHS staff on a number of occasions, DHS did not investigate the matter," the report said.